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SPECIAL PROGRAMS OFFICE
BAG FOR PATENTS

In re Patent No. 5,253,341
Issue Date: October 12, 1993
Application No. 07/683,972
Filed: April 11, 1991

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ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition, filed by facsimile on July 28, 1998¹, under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is GRANTED.

The patent issued October 12, 1993. The grace period for paying the first maintenance fee expired at midnight on October 12, 1997. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

1. In view of the evidence submitted, the petition to reinstate will be accepted as having been received on June 11, 1998. Additionally, the Revenue Accounting Management records indicate receipt of the \$2165 on June 11, 1998. The Office sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience caused to the petitioner by the loss of the original submission(s).

The statement of unintentional delay was not signed by a person who would have been in a position of knowing that the delay in timely paying the maintenance fee was unintentional. Nevertheless, in accordance with 37 CFR 10.18, the statement is accepted as constituting a certification of unintentional delay. However, in the event that petitioner has no knowledge that the delay was in fact unintentional, petitioner should make a reasonable inquiry to ascertain that, in fact, the delay was unintentional. If petitioner discovers that the delay was intentional, petitioner must so notify the Office.

If petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding any Maintenance Fee Reminder which may be mailed concerning this patent, a Fee Address should be submitted to Maintenance Fee Division. Further correspondence will be directed to the address of record; 37 CFR 1.33(d). This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (703) 308-6907.



Stacy F. Hoffman
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conferee: Karen O. Creasy^u